

Message Text

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43 40

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 RSR-01 XMB-07 COME-00 /094 W

----- 075680

R 131115Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4060

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5703

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS: BGEN, CG

SUBJ: STATUS OF MIDEMA

REF: KINSHASA A-118; JULY 5, 1973

1. AT 9:30 AM ON JULY 3, ONE ELEMENT OF THE SILO AT MIDEMA COLLAPSED, DAMAGING ANOTHER AS WELL AS THE FACADE OF THE MILL. ALTHOUGH INVESTIGATIONS OF THE CAUSE HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED, SABOTAGE HAS PRETTY WELL BE RULED OUT, AND IT WOULD APPPEAR THAT A FAULT IN ASSEMBLY OF THE ELEMENT WAS THE CAUSE.

2. THE MILL IS HAPPILY BACK IN PRODUCTION AT ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. THE ELEMENTS ARE BEING EMPTIED PNEUMATICALLY FROM THE TOP UNTIL THE BOTTOM UNLOADING SYSTEM WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CHECKED OUT. THE MILL EXPECTS TO RAISE PRODUCTION SOON TO 50 AND THEN 60 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. FULL PRODUCTION WILL NOT BE ATTAINED BEFORE EIGHT OR NINE MONTHS.

3. WITH THIS DROP IN PRODUCTION, THE SURPLUS FLOUR IMPORTED BY SGA WILL NICELY FILL THE GAP, BUT WE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT MR LITHO WOULD USE THE ACCIDENT AS AN EXCUSE TO IMPORT EVEN MORE FLOUR. THE AMBASSADOR AND A/ECONOMIC COUNSELOR HAVE, HOWEVER, RECEIVED FIRM ASSURANCES FROM BOTH THE GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK AND THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY THAT ABSOLUTELY NO RPT
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NO FLOUR IMPORT LICENSES WILL BE ISSUED. THE MINISTER OF

NATIONAL ECONOMY HAS ALSO REPORTED THE ACCIDENT AS WELL AS
ITS EFFECT ON FLOUR SUPPLY TO THE PRESIDENT POINTING OUT
THAT THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGE OF FLOUR AND

IMPORTS WILL BE UNNECESSARY.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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